

North American Phalanx Jan. 23^d 1848

Dear Friends

Your several letters were duly rec^d and our reply has not been delayed from want of due consideration, but mainly for the reason that we scarcely knew what to say.

You ask of us aid for the cause of Association in sustaining the propagandist branch of the movement. If you shall ever fully know at what cost we have, in our inadequate way, sustained ourselves as Realizationists, and thus indirectly at least, propagandists, our seeming want want of interest in your cause will not be uncharitably judged.

When it is considered that we had not the advantage of any central influence, any directing mind or natural leader; and especially in our domestic departments no one to whom we could look as authority; but assembled a mass of promiscuous, and as it proved, incongruous elements; and with no system established, depending upon the impromptu impulse of the few who were willing to work and wait patiently for the coming of order; and that our hope ^{of help} has been deferred from year to year; and that the few who were willing or able to devote themselves to the common good, have alternated from one detail of severe ^{labor} to another without intermission three three years & a half, you may readily imagine that last summer when for the first time we have had anything like adequate force in our domestic

departments, a long arrear of unfulfilled family and personal obligations remained. Also that from the combined influence of exhausting labor and destructive antagonism, a brief repose would not be unusual come.

If therefore we do not at present join our efforts directly with those who in civilized society are exerting themselves faithfully and worthily to sustain Propagation, you will not infer that we take no interest in the subject, nor that we are indifferent to the labor and successes of those who are consecrating themselves to the work of spreading this Gospel of Peace and of all fulness.

We hope yet to rejoice with you in the entire self sustaining success of both the Propagation and Realization branches of this true Church of Humanity movement.

With Sisterly affection we are happy to subscribe ourselves

Sincere co workers with you.

on behalf of the Ladies of the N. Am. Phoenix

Gertrude Sears

To the Ladies of the Boston }
Union of Associationists }

Miss Anna L. T. Parsons
Dear